CLAIMS

1. A method for locating searched terms in an image file received from a search engine, the method comprising:

submitting a search term to a search engine having an indexed file database of image files;

receiving an indexed file that cross-references image files to the search term;

performing an optical character recognition (OCR) operation on a selected image file;

locating coordinates in the image file corresponding to the search term; and,

automatically displaying the image file at the coordinates.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein automatically displaying the image file at the coordinates includes displaying the search term located at the image file coordinates.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein displaying the search term located at the image file coordinates includes highlighting the displayed search term located at the image file coordinates.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein performing an OCR operation on the image file includes performing an OCR operation on an image file in a format selected from the group including tagged image file format (TIFF) and portable document (PDF) formats.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein submitting a search term includes submitting a text search term.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein submitting a search term includes submitting a search term selected from the group including keywords, ASCII symbols, word patterns, and data patterns.

7. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

accepting a search term at a user interface (UI); and,

wherein submitting a search term to a search engine includes submitting the search term, accepted at the UI, from a main application.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

in response to receiving an indexed file cross-referencing image files to the search term, selecting an image file at the UI;

opening a viewer application;

in response to opening the viewer application, launching an OCR engine; and,

wherein performing an OCR operation on the image file includes performing an OCR operation on the selected image file in response to launching the OCR engine.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein locating coordinates in the image file corresponding to the search term includes the OCR engine supplying the coordinates to the viewer application.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein automatically displaying the image file at the coordinates includes the viewer application highlighting the text at the coordinates supplied by the OCR engine.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein receiving an indexed file cross-referencing image files to the search term includes receiving a plurality of image file references; and,

wherein selecting an image file includes selecting an image file from among the plurality of received image file references.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein opening a viewer application includes opening a viewer application, selected from a plurality of viewer applications, in response to the format of the selected image file.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein locating coordinates in the image file corresponding to the search term includes locating a sequence of bytes in the image file.

14. A system for locating search terms in an image file received from a search engine, the system comprising:

a user interface (UI) having an input to accept user commands, a display, and an applications interface;

a main application having an interface to accept a search term and image file selections from the UI, to supply the search term to a

search engine indexed file database of image files, to receive an indexed file cross-referencing image files to the search term, and to supply a selected image file;

a viewer application having an interface to accept the selected image file, to accept located coordinates in the image file corresponding to the search term, and to automatically supply the image file at the coordinates for display; and,

an optical character recognition (OCR) engine having an interface to receive the search term, to receive the selected image file, and to supply search term coordinates located in response to performing OCR on the selected image file.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the viewer application automatically supplies the search term, located at the image file coordinates, for display.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the viewer application automatically supplies a highlighted search term, located at the image file coordinates, for display.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein main application receives image files in a format selected from the group including tagged image file format (TIFF) and portable document (PDF) formats.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein the UI supplies a text search term to the main application.

19. The system of claim 14 wherein the main application accepts a search term from the UI selected from the group including keywords, ASCII symbols, word patterns, and data patterns.

20. The system of claim 14 wherein the viewer application launches the OCR engine, prior to supplying the selected image file.

21. The system of claim 14 wherein the main application receives a plurality of image file references corresponding to the search term, and receives a command from the UI selecting an image file from among the plurality of image file references.

22. The system of claim 21 further comprising:

a plurality of viewer applications, each viewer application corresponding to image file format.

23. The system of claim 14 wherein the OCR engine locates a sequence of bytes in the image file corresponding to the search term and supplies the byte sequence location to the viewer application.